

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 9 is canceled.

The claims are amended herein.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found, for example, on page 8, line 21, to page 9, line 2; and page 10, line 16, to page 11, line 2, of the specification.

Support for the amendments to claims 2 and 7 is found, for example, on page 9, lines 1-2, of the specification.

Support for the amendments to claim 5 is found, for example, on page 8, line 21, to page 9, line 1; and page 10, line 16, to page 11, line 2, of the specification.

New claims 16-18 are added.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 and 10-18 are currently pending.

II. OBJECTION TO THE TITLE

The Title is amended to overcome the objection.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-8, 14 AND 15 UNDER 35 USC 102(E)

AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY UEMURA

Various embodiments of the present invention aim to solve a problem that occurs when a film formed by a CVD method (hereinafter referred to as CVD film) is used as the dielectric layer.

The CVD film tends to have a residue remaining in the film. This residue permeates out to the discharge space and is gasified by photolysis by UV generated by discharges. The gasified residue has a problem that it causes the phosphor layer to deteriorate. The inventors of the claimed invention are of the opinion that such problem itself was not known before and the problem was found by the present inventors for the first time. The present inventors found that this problem can be solved by adding a barrier function to the protective layer or the intermediate layer that covers the CVD film so as to protect it from the UV emitted from the discharge space, and thus achieved the claimed invention.

The present inventors believe that the combination of the dielectric layer of CVD film and the ultraviolet shielding of an MgO protection layer is not disclosed anywhere in the cited references and is very unique. See, for example, page 7, line 6, to page 9, line 2, of the present application.

Uemura teaches that an intermediate layer of TiO₂ is interposed between the dielectric

layer and the MgO film.

However, Uemura has no suggestion on the unique combination of the CVD film and the protective or intermediate layer having an ultraviolet shielding function.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3 AND 14 UNDER 35 USC 102(E)

AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY KATOU

Katou discloses the addition of a second component such as Ti compound to the MgO film. This second component serves to prevent adhesion of water and/or carbon dioxide.

However, Katou has no suggestion on the combination of the CVD film and the protective or intermediate layer having an ultraviolet shielding function.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

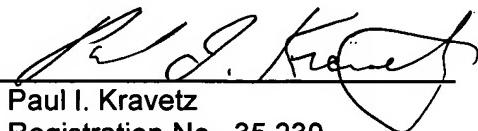
If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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